Mount McConnell
Mount Malloch
Condor Peak
Clearwater Mt.
Mount Noyes
Mount Sarbach
Mount Chephren
Coronation Mt.
Mount Forbes
Mount Freshfield
Mount Erasmus
Mount Amery
Mount Coleman
Mount Lyell
Mount Saskatchewan
Mount Snowdome
Mount Athabasca
Sunwapta Pass
Sunset Pass
Nigel Pass
Howse Pass
Icefall Mt.
Tomahawk Mt.
Ya Ha Tinda Trailhead
Saskatchewan Crossing
SIFFLEUR WILDERNESS ALBERTA BRITISH COLUMBIA AREA
WHITE GOAT WILDERNESS AREA
JASPER NATIONAL PARK

LOOKING FOR TRIP IDEAS?

Banff National Park offers many more backcountry opportunities than those described here. It is always possible to add more days to your trip in any given area too –

TRAILS
- Hiking Only
- Hiking, Horse Use
- Hiking, Commercial Horse Use
- Hiking, Horse, Mountain Biking
- Limited Access Road

CAMPGROUNDS
- Fires Permitted
- Fires Not Permitted
(Note: Campground designation number indicates approximate distance from nearest TRAILHEAD. e.g. Lm9 is 9 km from trailhead)

M A P   L E G E N D
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Hiking, Horse Use
Hiking, Commercial Horse Use
Hiking, Horse, Mountain Biking
Limited Access Road
CAMPGROUNDS
Fires Permitted
Fires Not Permitted
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Trail Shelters
Backcountry Lodges

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Trail Shelters
Backcountry Lodges
LOOKING FOR TRIP IDEAS?

Banff National Park offers many more backcountry opportunities than those described here. It is always possible to add more days to your trip in any given area too – the number of nights indicated is really a minimum. There are several excellent guidebooks available, including The Canadian Rockies Trail Guide by Brian Patton and Bart Robinson, and Graeme Pole’s Classic Hikes in the Canadian Rockies. Visitor Centre staff would also be pleased to advise you on your trip selection. Interested in day hikes? Some of the 2-day hikes can be done in a single day, or pick up a copy of Parks Canada’s Drives and Walks brochure at a Park Visitor Centre.

Two Day Trips

Lake Minnewanka 8 km one way; elevation gain: nil A good early or late season hike along the lakeshore. The trail departs from the trailhead at the Minnewanka day use area and returns by the same route. Stay an extra night and explore Aylmer Pass or Aylmer Lookout. Campsite: Lm8 Aylmer Pass Junction. Topographic map: 82 O/6

Paradise Valley 9.7 km one way; elevation gain: 291 m The trailhead is located on the Moraine Lake access road. A more strenuous option for the return route is to arrange a vehicle or pick-up at Moraine Lake and return via dramatic Sentinel Pass and Larch Valley. Campsite: Pa8 Paradise Valley. Topographic map: 82 N/8

Egypt Lake 12.4 km one way; elevation gain: 655 m A 2-day trip can be made from the Sunshine Village ski area gondola base to the Egypt Lake campsite or trail shelter and back. Stay 2 nights if possible, to further explore the wonders of the area. Campsite: E13 Egypt Lake or Egypt Lake trail shelter. Topographic map: 82 O/4

Glacier Lake 8.9 km one way; elevation gain: 210 m This trail departs from a trailhead north of Saskatchewan Crossing on the Icefields Parkway and brings travellers to a campsite at one of the largest backcountry lakes in Banff.

Three Day Trips

Bryant Creek area 45 km +; elevation gain: 455 m Beginning at the Mt. Shark trailhead in Kananaskis Country, Alberta, this trail brings hikers to a meadow campsite (or trail shelter). Day trips can then be made to Wonder, Allenby or Assiniboine Passes. Be prepared for intermittent noise from helicopters. Campsite: 2 nights at Br14 McBride’s Camp, Br13 Marvel Lake or Bryant Creek trail shelter. Topographic maps: 82 J/14, 82 J/13

Elk Summit-Cascade Mountain Loop 35.8 km; elevation gain: 610 m The Upper Bankhead picnic area on the Lake Minnewanka road serves as the trailhead for this trip, which begins with a hike up the old Cascade fire road. At Stony Creek, the trail heads over Elk Summit to Elk Lake and exits at the Mt. Norquay Ski area. Campsites: Cr15 Stony Creek (Night 1), Ek13 Elk Lake Summit (Night 2), Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 O/5

Palliser Pass 54.4 km; elevation gain: 400 m Departing from the Mt. Shark trailhead in Kananaskis Country, Alberta, this trip follows the upper reaches of the Spray River, through subalpine meadows to Palliser Pass (at the extreme southern tip of Banff National Park). Enjoy Palliser Pass as a day hike, and return via the same route to Mt. Shark. Campsite: Us18 Burstall (2 nights). Topographic maps: 82 J/14

Assiniboine Loop 55 km The trail begins and ends at the Mt. Shark trailhead in Kananaskis Country, Alberta. Travel through two parks, two provinces and behold the beauty of the sixth highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies. Campsites: Br14 McBride’s Camp (Night 1); Lake Magog campground, Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park (Night 2), where a separate B.C. Parks campground fee will be collected on-site; Br13 Marvel Lake (Night 3) Topographic maps: 82 J/14

Four Day Trips

Mystic Pass 36.8 km; elevation gain: 395 m From the trailhead at the Mt. Norquay ski area, the first part of this trail is shown. The trail traverses a good portion of Banff National Park, including the southern tip of Banff National Park. Campsite: Us18 Burstall (2 nights). Topographic maps: 82 J/14

Five Days Plus

Sawback Trail 73.5 km This trip takes you over three spectacular mountain passes. The trail traverses a good portion of Banff National Park, including the southern tip of Banff National Park.
Egypt Lake: 12.4 km one way; elevation gain 655 m
A 2-day trip can be made from the Sunshine Village ski area gondola base to the Egypt Lake campsite or trail shelter and back. Stay 2 nights if possible, to further explore the wonders of the area.
Campsite: E13 Egypt Lake or Egypt Lake trail shelter  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4

Glacier Lake: 8.9 km one way; elevation gain 210 m
This trail departs from a trailhead north of Saskatchewan Crossing on the Icefields Parkway and brings travellers to a campsite at one of the largest backcountry lakes in Banff National Park. Campsite: G9 Glacier Lake.  
Topographic maps: 82 N/5

Twin Lakes: 8.7 km one way; elevation gain 605 m
Twin Lakes can be reached by two trails. The first departs from the Vista Lake viewpoint on Highway 93, while the second begins at Altrude Creek on the Trans Canada Highway and follows a less strenuous route. Campsite: Tw7 Twin Lakes.  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 O/5

Elk Lake: 11.5 km one way; elevation gain: 510 m
Departing from the Mt. Norquay ski area, the first few km of the trail climbs through dense forest. The campsite is located in the open subalpine meadows of Elk Pass, about 2.5 km from Elk Lake. Campsite: Ek13 Elk Lake  
Summit.  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 O/5

Fish Lakes: 14.8 km one way; elevation gain: 760 m
This trail begins at the Mosquito Creek trailhead (off the Icefields Parkway) and climbs over North Molar Pass through some of the most extensive alpine meadows in Banff National Park. Campsite: Mo18 Fish Lakes.  
Topographic maps: 82 N/9

Four Day Trips

Assiniboine Loop: 55 km
The trail begins and ends at the Mt. Shark trailhead in Kananaskis Country, Alberta. Travel through two parks, two provinces and behold the beauty of the sixth highest mountain in the Canadian Rockies.  
Campsite: Fm19 McBride’s Camp (Night 1).  
Lake Magog campground, Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park (Night 2), where a separate B.C. Parks campground fee will be collected on-site;  
B13 Marvel Lake (Night 3).  
Topographic maps: 82 J/14, 82 J/13

Misty Pass: 36.8 km; elevation gain: 395 m
From the trailhead at the Mt. Norquay ski area, the first part of this trail follows the rushing waters of Forty Mile Creek. On the second day, pass by Mystic Lake and ascend toward the open alpine country of Mystic Pass. After joining the Johnston Creek trail, enjoy a relatively easy hike out to Johnston Canyon on the Bow Valley Parkway, via the Ink Pots.  
Campsite: Fm19 Mystic Junction (Night 1).  
Jo9 Larry’s Camp (Night 2).  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 O/5

Sunshine – Assiniboine – Bryant Creek: 55.7 km
Mt. Assiniboine can also be reached from the Sunshine Village ski area via the rambling alpine meadows of Citadel Pass. Take the privately run shuttle bus up the limited access ski area road to avoid a 6.5 km walk. The trip exits via Bryant Creek at the Mt. Shark trailhead in Kananaskis Country, Alberta.  
Campsite: Porcupine campground, Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park (Night 1);  
Lake Magog campground. Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park (Night 2);  
B13 Marvel Lake (Night 3).  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 J/14, 82 J/13

Ski Loop: 34.3 km; elevation gain: 1,136 m
Beginning at the Fish Creek trailhead (next to the Lake Louise ski area), this trip starts with a 4 km hike up the Temple access road. Climb over aptly-named Boulder Pass and pass by Ptarmigan Lake before descending to Baker Lake. The second day involves travelling around Fossil Mountain and past historic Skoki Lodge to Merlin Meadows. After climbing Deception Pass, re-join the access trail at Ptarmigan Lake.  
Campsite: Sk11 Baker Lake (Night 1);  
Sk18 Merlin Meadows (Night 2).  
Topographic maps: 82 N/8, 82 N/9, 82 O/5, 82 O/12

Sunshine – Vista Lake: 40.4 km
A series of high country trails links the Sunshine Village ski area (access on foot or via a privately run shuttle bus) to the Vista Lake viewpoint on Highway 93. Explore the Egyp Lake area on route. After climbing over Gibbon Pass, the trail meanders past a series of scenic lakes before final descent to the highway.  
Campsite: E13 Egypt Lake (Night 1);  
Re14 Shadow Lake (Night 2);  
Tw7 Twin Lakes (Night 3).  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 N/1

Five Days Plus

Sawback Trail: 73.5 km
This trip takes you over three spectacular mountain passes. The trail traverses a good portion of Banff National Park, linking the town of Banff with Lake Louise. Trailheads are located at the Mt. Norquay and the Lake Louise ski areas. There are many camping options - a possible 7-day itinerary is provided here.  
Campsites:  
Fm19 Mystic Junction (Night 1);  
Jo9 Larry’s Camp (Night 2);  
Jo18 Johnston Creek or Jo19 Luellen Lake (Night 3);  
Jo29 Badger Pass (Night 4);  
Ba15 Wildflower Creek (Night 5);  
Sk11 Baker Lake (Night 6).  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 O/5, 82 N/8

Mystic Pass – Flint’s Park – Badger Pass: 76.4 km
Allow about 7 days for this journey, which begins and ends at Johnston Canyon. Explore the subalpine meadowland of Flint’s Park and climb over remote Mystic and Badger Passes. Badger Pass can be blocked by a snow cornice well into the summer months.  
Campsite: Jo9 Larry’s Camp (Night 1);  
ME22 Mystic Valley (Night 2);  
C313 Flint’s Park (Night 3);  
C337 Block Lakes Junction (Night 4);  
Jo29 Badger Pass Junction (Night 5);  
Jo18 Johnston Creek (Night 6);  
Jo9 Larry’s Camp (Night 7).  
Topographic maps: 82 O/4, 82 O/5

Dolomite – Isabella – Siffleur – Fish Lakes Loop: 67.6 km
This trip, which takes about 5 days, begins at the Helen Lake trailhead on the Icefields Parkway and ends at the Mosquito Creek trailhead. In between the trail passes through long stretches of open alpine tundra, braided rivers and past craggy summits. Hikers must be able to ford streams, find their own routes and make their own minimal impact camps. Use restrictions may apply.  
Campsites: Mostly random camping. One designated campsite near the Dolomite Creek/Siffleur River junction. Last night at Mo18 Fish Lakes campsite.  
Topographic maps: 82 N/9, 82 N/16.